



## **Community Development Department Current Planning Division**

### **Memorandum**

**FROM:** Audree Juhlin, Assistant Director

**TO:** Planning and Zoning Commission

**DATE:** March 21, 2013 (For March 28, 2013 Work Session)

**SUBJECT:** Draft Energy Policy

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At a joint meeting between the City Council and the Sustainability Commission in June 2012, Council directed the Commission to begin work on a City-wide energy policy in conjunction with the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Citizen's Steering Committee. A small working team has been formulating this policy and is now asking for review and comments.

Please review the attached document and be prepared to discuss the draft policy and provide your comments at the March 28 Work Session.

**DRAFT**  
**Sustainable Energy Policy**  
February 27, 2013

The City of Sedona has adopted a Vision Statement, a portion of which is quoted below:

“To be a city that lives up to the challenge of proper stewardship of one of the earth’s great treasures.”

It is in the context of this vision that this Sustainable Energy Policy has been developed. This policy will direct the City with regards to its own energy activities but, more importantly, it will support, educate and assist the entire community of Sedona and our visitors with regards to energy matters.

The adoption of this policy will benefit the entire community as follows:

- Reducing our energy consumption is an economic benefit.
- Reducing our use of imported energy is both an economic and a social good.
- Increased use of renewable energy sources will provide future generations with a greater range of resources by preserving limited non-renewable resources.
- Reduction in our use of fossil fuels will help mitigate the impact of energy consumption on climate change and reduce the stress on the limited regional water supplies.

**City Administration**

For a sustainable energy policy to be successful, it is essential for the city to "lead by example." It is the intent that Council and staff will use this policy to inform and direct their decisions and activities while providing for the overall health, safety and welfare of the community. It is the intent of this policy to maintain or improve the quality of life for the community and our visitors.

**Electricity**

This primarily relates to city buildings and facilities.

- Reduce energy consumption by education and training, management of energy usage, and deployment of more energy efficient lighting and equipment. This will be measured by setting 3-5 year conservation targets.
- Increase the percentage of energy consumption from renewable sources by setting reasonable 3-5 year targets. Such targets will include generation of energy from city solar or other renewable facilities.
- Implement an energy audit program to establish both a base line that will be used to measure progress and identify possible areas for improvement.

### Natural Gas/Propane/Geothermal

- Install renewable equipment to directly replace natural gas/propane for hot water and swimming pool heating.
- Install high efficiency equipment such as gas furnaces, water heaters, instant hot water, etc.
- Investigate installation of geothermal heating and cooling to reduce energy usage.

### Gasoline/Diesel

This primarily relates to transportation matters.

- Revise the city purchasing policy to incorporate the increased use of renewable fuel and fuel-efficient vehicles.
- Set a public example by purchasing hybrid or other fuel-efficient vehicles.
- Set a 3-5 year goal for reduced non-renewable energy consumption per mile driven for all city vehicles.

### General Purchasing and Construction

- The city will incorporate values of sustainability and energy effectiveness when purchasing goods or undertaking construction. Selected materials and construction processes will be evaluated using these criteria.
- The city will develop and maintain a database that provides measurements of progress with regards to city energy goals.

### Intergovernmental Affairs

- The city will undertake to provide leadership at the regional and state level in order to support similar policies throughout the state.
- The city will play an active role in promoting changes to policy, tariffs and laws that will make it more attractive to install renewable energy supply and energy efficient equipment.

### Community Energy Goals

Through a combination of education, incentives and support to individuals and businesses, the city will provide leadership to the community at large. The goal of such leadership will be to reduce the community use of non-renewable energy sources.

City activities will be supportive and educational and not prescriptive in nature.

### Buildings

- The city will develop building codes that incorporate sustainability, energy reduction and energy efficiency.
- The city will supply basic field data on performance of these strategies.
- The city will develop an education and incentive program to encourage individuals and businesses to incorporate these code elements into their projects or to add renewables to existing facilities.
- The city will develop a program to encourage citizen installation of residential and commercial renewable projects.

- The city will develop and maintain a database that measures the effectiveness of these measures with regards to energy conservation and sustainability.

#### Transportation

- Provide continued support for increased use of bicycles by both residents and visitors.
- Work with the community to adopt a community plan and related development code that encourages walking and minimizes the use of vehicle transportation for minor trips.
- Advertise on the city's high efficiency or renewable energy vehicles to encourage others to follow the city's example.
- Work with other regional governments to increase use of public bus transportation and van/car pooling for commuter needs.
- Encourage in the Community Plan the development of local neighborhood zones that reduce the need for vehicle travel.

#### Visitors

The city will work with the business community and community organizations to establish informational flyers and programs to inform and encourage our visitors on how, by their actions, they can support our energy policy.

The city will work with federal, state and regional entities to investigate transportation alternatives for residents and visitors with a focus on reducing the use of their individual vehicles.

#### Related Issues

It is understood that related areas such as water use, food consumption and storm water management are part of the broad picture of energy consumption. However, in order to make this policy practical and focused, these aspects are not specifically included in this policy.